

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7 and 16-19 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,033,276 (Walker et al.).

Specification Amendment

The specification has been amended to eliminate the priority claim. A revised Application Data Sheet is attached.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to include a Summary. No new matter has been added.

Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended to patentably distinguish over Walker et al. and the other cited references.

The non-elected claims have been canceled.

The Cited References Do Not Disclose Applicants' Claimed Gaming Network

Amended claim 1, for instance, calls for a gaming network comprising a gaming device including a base game and a secondary bonus feature. The secondary bonus feature is playable by players identified to the gaming device. Player tracking hardware is structured to identify a player of the gaming device. A player tracking system is structured to store data about gameplay of the player of the gaming device. A player processing system is structured to record a present state of the secondary bonus feature wherein the present state of the secondary bonus feature can be recalled from stored data during a subsequent gaming session. The secondary bonus feature includes a series of trigger events in which the secondary bonus feature advances to a non-initial state upon the occurrence of a trigger event. At a non-initial state, a player identified to the gaming device acquires an award randomly selected from a group of possible awards. At the end of the secondary bonus feature, the player is rewarded based on the number or types awards acquired.

Walker et al. and the other cited references simply do not disclose such as gaming network. As such, Applicants' claimed invention is not anticipated by nor would it been obvious in view of the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (510) 663-1100.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment (including any fees due for an extension of time), such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P288X1).

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Respectfully submitted,
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